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Information Technology and Communication Services (ITACS)

ITACS Technology News

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Monterey, California ; Naval Postgraduate School



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INSTITUTIONAL RESEARCH

Copies of the *Community Impact Study*, a document that recaps the impact of NPS on the local community in the areas of economics, volunteerism and interactions with other organizations, will be distributed to local institutions, government agencies, and throughout the NPS campus in early September. The Office of Institutional Research and the Office of Institutional Advancement produced the document.

CALREN-HPR/CENIC

NPS has established two new internal networks to provide connection to CalREN-HPR: Inside-HPR and DMZ-HPR. Both are supersets of the NPS ERN internal network, are protected by a high bandwidth firewall, and have the same connectivity as standard ERN-connected computers, except that the former have access to the CALREN-HPR network.

A Gigabit link to the CALREN-HPR Soledad hub has been added to the CalREN-HPR network, CENIC's high-performance research network, an integral component of the national Internet2, which also provides leading-edge services for large-application users at associates' sites of CENIC.

Information on the CalREN-HPR network is available at the www.cenic.org website. For specific links, see:
HPR peer networks: www.cenic.org/calren/peer.htm
HPR site map: www.cenic.org/calren/maps/hprsites.htm
HPR community drawing: www.cenic.org/calren/community.htm

HIGH-PERFORMANCE COMPUTING (HPC)

A new 32-node dual-boot Linux/Windows cluster, which belongs to Garth Hobson in MAE, is being added to the HPC Center. Each node has 2 dual-core opteron processors, for a total of 128 processors, making it one of the top two "supercomputers" currently on campus.

ERN UPDATE

All NPS resident users have been migrated to the ERN domain. Over the summer break, 1,040 students with 130 GIGs of email and 300 GIGs of files were transferred. Distance Learning students that will not graduate in September will be moved by September 7th.

REPORT FROM THE TECHNOLOGY ASSISTANCE CENTER

From August 1 through August 28th, the Technology Assistance Center (TAC) received a total of 2,816 requests for assistance, 2,340 of which were resolved by the Tier 1/Tier 2 areas. 476 of the remaining calls were answered by other ITACS departments/groups. TAC also moved over 300 machines as part of the ERN transition, and lent their support to the Flag Level Conference in the Center for Executive Education, and the Distance Learning Summit sponsored by the Office of Continuous Learning.

INTERVIEW WITH COLONEL JEFF WILLIAMS

To watch the interview from August 24th of NPS alumnus Colonel Jeff Williams, who is at the International Space Station, please use this link: [http://intranet.nps.navy.mil/PAO/intranet/submissions/NPS Newman SpaceStationVTC 08-24-2006 3146.zip](http://intranet.nps.navy.mil/PAO/intranet/submissions/NPS%20Newman%20SpaceStationVTC%2008-24-2006%203146.zip).

If you have any questions, please contact the Technology Assistance Center at 656-1046, or email them at TAC@nps.edu.

CLASSROOM MAINTENANCE PLAN

Mr. Tracy Hammond, Director of Instructional Technology, will maintain the new Classroom Maintenance Plan, which was developed by campus leaders. Quarterly evaluations of all classrooms and LRCs will be conducted, and Mr. Hammond will work with key constituents to determine priorities, and coordinate their execution with Public Works.



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NEW TECHNOLOGY AND INNOVATION CENTER

When **Mr. Joe LoPiccolo** discovered that the Center for Executive Education (CEE) makes almost 160,000 copies for each course taught through their department, he directed the staff of the New Technology Innovation Center (NTIC) to find a solution for CEE — one that also aligns with the Digitization Committee's mandate to reduce paper usage on campus. The solution is a match of DYKnow software and Gateway's convertible tablet PC, a fairly robust, durable, dual-purpose laptop with a 14" screen and a theft deterrent system, offered at a good price for a desktop replacement machine — about \$1,675, or \$150 above the cost of a laptop. Using a SQL server web application that will be hosted through DYKnow Vision, the presenter has control over the tablet systems, and any notes he/she makes on a slide is automatically transferred to the student. Students can take notes by either writing directly onto the slide, using the margins, inserting a text box, or keeping a separate note section. Thumb drives store all the documents and notes, which will replace the 4" binders filled with information that CEE now uses.

Using this system, CEE is slated to save \$196,880 on paper, printing, labor and mailing costs over a three-year period. Technical support for the first 6 months of use will be provided through the CEE and by NTIC.

COPIER CONTRACT UPDATE

Using the criteria of volume/copy rate per second, support, functionality and processor speed to evaluate multi-function devices to replace the copiers on campus, DAPS has condensed their final choices to three vendors: Canon, Panasonic and Xerox. A decision is expected soon.

The IT Task Force Committee approved ITACS Policy 903 (PDA) at its August 24th meeting.

PARTNERSHIPS AND OUTREACH

Dr. Christine Cermak met with **Mr. Pat Kelly**, director of the Residential Communities Initiative, and **Mr. Fran Coen**, of Clark-Pinnacle, to discuss the inclusion of public access channels in the cable television channel line-up for RCI housing. Dr. Cermak asked that local public access channels be included so that residents can have access to the Pentagon Channel, Navy News, UCTV, the Research Channel, and other military and higher education-related programming. **Mr. Alan Richmond** is developing plans for a monthly NPS television program that will run on public access locally, and NPS would like that program to be available to RCI residents. Mr. Kelly and Mr. Coen said they would consider the request. Both also agreed to a quarterly meeting where RCI technology would be briefed for Dr. Cermak.

Members of ITACS participated in the Distance Learning Summit on August 30 and 31, hosted by the Office of Continuous Learning. **Dr. Christine Cermak** presented an EDUCAUSE video providing a future vision of higher education through the year 2020. **Mr. Tracy Hammond** and **Mr. John Dillard** presented on the use of video tele-education, and **Mr. Joe LoPiccolo** talked about streaming media.

Provost Leonard Ferrari asked **Dr. Christine Cermak** to chair the Provost's *Ad Hoc* Committee on Business Practices. The Committee was asked to recommend ways that NPS can improve its internal business practices. The report is scheduled to be completed by the end of August, and will be both posted on the web and presented to the IT Task Force in September.

Microsoft's Technical Account Manager visited with ITACS personnel on August 29th. Feedback was given on Microsoft's supportive services for the past year, and goals were set for the upcoming year.